P 9

This may be preserved.

238 - 16

G. R. S. IX-5]

Previous references.

File No. (238 of 16)

1916-17

Serial Nos. 1-3

(Police)

Later references.

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Serial Nos. 1 – 3

Part B for January 17

SUBJECT.

Laxity in the administration of Game Laws

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3) To The I Gr of Police

No 2285 D 26-12-16

Records (Hist-2) ~~the Hist-2~~ his letter reports on the subj-

V Kumaraswami
15/3/17

W D 68—GPB—50,000—24-7-16

G. R. S. 11] 1916-17

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

(Police)

NOTES.

File No. 238-16

FILE HEADING.-

Facility in the administration of spare bars.

From

No.	Dated	Received

Diary No.	Enclos.	Spare Copies.	Serial No.

BRIEF ABSTRACT OF LETTER.

NOTES AND ORDERS.

The Daily Post

(Founded 1873.)

WEDNESDAY EVENING, MAY 31, 1916.

THE PRESERVATION OF GAME.

(THEORY AND PRACTICE.)

We have frequently wondered at the excellence of the code of laws laid down for the preservation of game in Mysore and the—to put it very mildly—laxity of their administration. And—without egotism—we claim to write with some little knowledge. Not, of course, with anything like the knowledge possessed by many others, independently of officials. Still, we have had personal experience of most Mysore game, from tiger downwards, and it is principally where the smaller fauna of the State is concerned that the game laws would seem, in many districts, to be absolutely a dead letter. The large game is well looked after, so well, indeed, that it will soon be somewhat difficult for an ordinary license-holder to know where he may go for a few weeks shoot with any prospect of success. But when we come to antelope—the beautiful 'black buck' which can scarcely be excelled for grace, speed and colouring by any animal of its size in the world, things are in a parlous state indeed. It is quite true that very stringent rules concerning antelope shooting are laid down and embodied in every license issued but, later on, we shall show how utterly ineffective these rules are in practice.

With regard to feathered game and hares, matters are still worse, and things occur openly and daily which are calculated to make ordinary people wonder whether the Mysore game laws are one huge joke. It is now possible to wander over many miles of scrub jungle which ought to be full of hares without seeing any; or at least only a very occasional one and the reason is not far to seek. It is the custom of many villages to have regular hare-hunts and the outward and visible signs of these are to be seen in the shape of a line of small boughs or loppings, from lantana and other scrub, which may extend for a mile or more and in which gaps are left. It is a curious fact that, if it can possibly avoid doing so, a hare will not spring over an obstruction, however small, but will run round it. Therefore, when, moving in front of the whole population of the village which is howling behind, a hare encounters this line of dead brush, he runs along it until he finds a gap, and is popping quietly through when he is clubbed by a concealed and squatting villager. Nets also enter into the scheme of the destruction of hares, as they do for almost every kind of game. We have seen them openly displayed in Malnad villages, huge arrangements through which nothing could break and have witnessed the destruction of pigs by their means. That was some years ago, and had anything which came under the provisions of Mysore game laws been caught, our intention was to intervene, although it is much to be doubted whether the villagers would have taken interference passively. Fish are, naturally, poached by almost every conceivable means, but their powers of reproduction are so extensive that they stand a very much better chance than game.

To return to the question of antelope. A European sportsman wishes to shoot a buck or two. He is allowed two bucks long at the back of our mind. He says that recently, in his home state in America, quail were protected for five years and any man found with one, *dead or alive* was arrested and fined the equivalent of Rs. 75. The Americans are nothing if not thorough, and such a regulation would perhaps be a little drastic for Mysore. But our American correspondent is, nevertheless, only stating a fact when he says that "it means the extermination of the game if these people are allowed to trap and sell game in season and out". We know it only too well. Even during the last fifteen years the small game of Mysore in certain districts has wofully diminished. We can point out ground within a dozen miles of Bangalore where, ten years ago, a fair bag of small game was a certainty in a day's tramp in the season. The same ground will now provide perhaps four or five shots during the whole day. Here and there, about the country, are dotted what are called Government plantations, and the harmless European sportsman is as likely as not to be sternly warned not to set foot within the aloe hedge. But the bird-catcher with his caged call-bird and his nets will be allowed the run of it—for a consideration.

The whole thing is an absurd anomaly. It is not to be supposed that, because quail, partridge, florican and hare are too small game for those in high places to trouble much about, their extermination is therefore immaterial, or that the authorities are indifferent on the matter. The grey jungle-cock of Mysore is as magnificent a bird as can well be imagined, but we have seen both these birds and peafowl carried through this station of Bangalore with their eye-lids stitched up and carried on a bamboo, nor has any man questioned the legality of the thing. Upon one occasion—it was some years ago—we ourselves introduced two jungle-men, three pea-fowl and four or five jungle-fowl to the Cubbon Park Police Station. The prevailing impression seemed to be one of surprise. The junglemen were surprised, the representatives of the law were surprised. However, we persisted and, if we remember right, the men were fined for cruelty in the stitching up of the birds' eyes. It would seem that, in the close or breeding season at least, the very offering of partridges or quail for sale constitutes an offence. As for "bright plumaged birds," we have seen fellows wandering about with a gun a mile or two out of Bangalore, with the avowed intention of making a "bag" of blue jays, kingfishers, parrots and the like.

We would ask whether, from every point of view, this state of things should not be remedied. It is far better to have no rules at all than to make them and allow them to be systematically and openly broken. It is hard upon the honest sportsman, it brings Government rules and regulations into ridicule and it will certainly eventually bring about the practical extermination of small game in many districts of this beautiful State. Where the immediate cause of the evil lies we cannot say, but it will be very easy for the authorities to find out. Personally, we should like to see both quail and partridges given at least a two years' rest; but that is a point for the consideration of the game officials. Jungle fowl will never be hurt by fair shooting, they are in thick jungle and half-a-dozen or so in a day is quite a large bag. But netting, snaring, the taking of eggs and all the

with horns of a certain measurement, and no more. And all sorts and conditions of men with all sorts of guns kill antelope whenever and wherever they can get a pot at them; does, fawns and immature bucks indiscriminately. In season and out of season does this destruction go on. Within a few miles of this office in which we write, parties have sallied out with the deliberate and openly avowed intention of shooting buck, and none says them nay! In the wet weather the poor beasts are mobbed into sticky ground, tank beds and so on, and run down by dogs. Nets, placed round cholam fields are also utilised for their undoing. In short, the marvel is that the beautiful Indian antelope does not become altogether extinct and, whilst the European who stalks his buck and shoots it fairly at any distance up to two hundred yards, and sometimes more, does not grumble at the restrictions placed upon him, it is irritating to him to be aware that the villager or the unscrupulous shikari, laughs in his sleeve and kills how, when and where he will.

And now with regard to feathered game. The separate and distinct times and seasons for shooting the different species are gravely and precisely laid down. For a license-holder to shoot a quail, a partridge or a jungle fowl out of season is an offence punishable by a substantial fine. And it is only necessary to visit the markets of the City and the Civil and Military Station to see quail and partridges exposed for sale in large numbers. Why are these birds so scarce in the districts? Both lay a large number of eggs and should rear large broods. But only once, in a lengthy shooting experience in this State have we seen what might be called a fair number of grey partridges together. One, two, three and very occasionally four are the rule, and these only to be encountered perhaps once or twice in a long day's tramp. Nets and call-birds in cages answer the above riddle as to the scarcity of these birds, and it is difficult to proceed for many miles on any district road without coming across the quail and partridge catcher and his paraphernalia.

An American gentleman who shoots keenly and cleanly has written to us on the above subject and has brought about the inditing of the present article which, however, has been other poacher-like devices of the villager should be put down with a rigorous hand. These birds can never be a source of livelihood to him and their wanton and indiscriminate destruction is a veritable outrage. Heavy fines, especially, should be inflicted for the possession of live birds in the breeding season. Every hen bird may mean the loss of a whole brood. And, in closing this somewhat lengthy article, we earnestly hope that the authorities will take drastic steps in the matter. It is the small game which are chiefly concerned, for the decrease of late years has been nothing short of startling.

J. Mi 1680

G.R.S. 13]

Routine Notes.

[To be used only for notes, requisitions, etc., not intended for permanent record.]

Subd. May a report be called for from the D.G.P. in the matter?

B.H.
5.6.16

Subd.

ES
5/6

4) Subd. with a draft.

B.H.
5.6.16.

3) Done
ES
6/6.

4) In the meanwhile another article on the same subject has been received.

P.T.O.

N.B.—Should routine notes be written on small slips, the notes must be copied, or slips pasted on this form.

GPB—50,000—5-8-15

Letters to the Editor.

[*The Editor does not undertake responsibility for the opinions expressed by correspondents.*]

The Preservation of Game.

TO THE EDITOR "DAILY POST."

DEAR SIR,—Kindly allow me to express my appreciation of your article on "The Preservation of Game" for it certainly is time that something was done by those in authority.

Three years ago a favorite bit of jungle teemed with partridges, but last year and the year before there were none, the cause of which, I found one afternoon, when I ran across a party of natives shouting and beating and then their nets. I promptly reported this to the police at the nearest police station, and they looked at me in astonishment, so you can realize nothing was done.

I have on several occasions, while out shooting, had villagers tell me if I would give them some cartridges they would show me good shooting ground.

Here is the evidence that the villagers had firearms but could not obtain cartridges, so evidently they had no license to have either.

I am quite sure those in authority in Mysore State can stop this evil if they wish.

Yours faithfully,

"SHIKARI"

80/796.

J. Dis 1693-15

5) Forwarded to Bom 2.6.16) Mug

Lee 2/6

Recd 6.6.16

6) Draft already approved is resubd. with suitable additions

B.S. 7.6.16.

" Done 8/6/16

To the S.S.P. no. J4769 of 8.6.16. Calls for a report in the matter. No reply has yet been received.

8) Subd. with a draft reminder.

B.S. 8.11.16

9) Done 9.11

1312

G. R. S. 12]

General and Revenue Secretariat. | Police File No. 238 of 1915-16

Serial No.

2 From The S. S. & Police No. 217-C.I.D. dt 12/14.12.16
Submits a report in the matter.

(a) From the report it is seen that no specific instances have been pointed out in the article and that there seems to be no justification for the complaint.

B.S. 19/12/16. (i) Subd for orders.

If approved, the Dy. will be requested to get a leaflet prepared as suggested in para 4 of his letter, and have them distributed broadcast, & also to all the village officials in the State. No other action seems necessary. Submitted for orders.

Dy 19.12

53/20.12.16. Second Member

Pol. 21/12 (2) May be recorded. See notes on the leaflet

21.12 Dy 21/12

(3) Draft suld.

BS 22.12.16

(4) Done Dy 21/12

3 To The S. S. & Police

No 2285 & 26th Dec. 1916

Records the above communication.

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

6/6

X

Police

G. R. S. 26]

File No. 238/15

Serial No. 1

Diary No. of letter replied to .....

No. J 4769/

General and Revenue Secretariat

( )

, *the* 191 .

To

The Inspector General of Police

in Mysore

Date of issue 8-6-1916

Signed by Mr. G. Sreenivasa Iyer

Has the honor to invite his attention to the articles headed 'The Preservation of Game' in the Daily Post of the 31st May (and 15th June) 1916 and to request that Govt. may be furnished with a ~~report~~ full report in the matter.

By order

E S 6/6

for Secy. to Govt.

Genl. Dept.

P.G.

5-6-16.

over.

SUBJECT.

No. 217/C.38. OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE IN MYSORE,

Encl. —

Dated Bangalore, 12-12- *191* 6.

DIARY No. 1312

From Rajasabhabhushana
Diwan Bahadur C. SRIKANTESVARA AIYAR, B.A., B.L.,
Inspector-General of Police in Mysore.

To

D. M. NARASINGA RAO, ESQ., B.A., B.L.,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of
His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore,
General Department.

Sir,

With reference to your Office docket No. 4769/Police dated the 8th June 1916, regarding the articles on "The preservation of Game" published in the Daily Post of the 31st May 1916 and 1st June 1916, I have the honor to state that all the Deputy Commissioners report that the articles do not specify any particular acts or localities but deal in a general way about the laxity and irregularities in the working of the Game Preservation Regulation, referring only to the capture of black buck, hare and feathered game.

2. As regards black buck, under Section 12 of the Game Laws, the owner or occupier of land is exempted from the provisions thereof against game doing damage to his crops. The villagers sometimes take advantage of this exception and capture the buck found on their lands, but such instances are reported to be very rare.

3. The law is strictly enforced in the case of hares and feathered game. In some places, however, the villagers celebrate, during the "Yugadi", the national festival by going out in a body and pursuing and capturing a hare and parading it in procession in the villages. This practice, being prevalent for the ages past, is reported to be somewhat tolerated on the ground of ancient custom and usage, and that

GEN. & REV. SECTT.
From
111
18 DEC. 1916

GPB—300—26-7-15

From The Inspector-General of Police
in Mysore.

To

GEN. & REV. SECRETARIAT
111
JUDICIAL
18 DEC 1916

The Secretary to the Government of
H. H. the Maharaja of Mysore,
General Dept.

Dated } 14th December
Despatched } 1916

Received

General No. 217
No. C.9.D.

SUBJECT.

Reporting that the articles on "The preservation of Game" published in the Daily Post of the 31st May 1916 and 1st June 1916, do not specify any particular acts or localities etc.

cls 4-30

no serious damage is, however, caused by it to the game.

4. It is reported that the laxity in the enforcement of the Game Laws is due more to the ignorance of the Village Officers and the subordinate Forest and Police Officers. It is suggested that leaflets may be prepared in Kannada, explaining the objects and scope of the Game Laws, and distributed broadcast among the subordinate and Village Officers.

5. As to paragraph 3 of the article of 1st June 1916, in regard to the demand made by the villagers for cartridges as a remuneration for showing shooting grounds etc, it is explained that the remedy lies with the sportsmen themselves, and that it may be put a stop to by their rewarding the villagers by money payments.

6. And in the matter of the possession of guns the provisions of the Arms Regulation are strictly enforced, needing no more action than at present.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Asst. to the Inspector General of Police,

For Inspector General of Police,

Absent from station.

G.R.S. 28]

Police
File No. 238-15
Serial No. 3

*Diary No. of letter replied to*_____

Proceedings of the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.
( )

, *the* 191 .

Date of issue 26/12/16

Signed by W. G. Srinivasa

READ— Letter no. 217-C.I.B. dated the 12/14th December 1916 from the D.S. of Police in Mysore submitting a report regarding the statements contained in the articles on

~~ORDER THEREON.— No.~~

"The Prasanna Vani of Yama" published in the Daily Post of the 31st May and 1st June 1916.

Order No. J 2288.

Recorded

Over.

SUBJECT.

To The D.S. of Police Mysore

BS.
22.12.16.

GPB—50,000—1-12-12